

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2004, claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11-17 and 19 are amended, claim 2 is cancelled, and claims 21 and 22 are added. Claims 1, 6-9, 11-17, 19, 21 and 22 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

All dependent claims are amended to begin with “The” instead of “A”. Such amendment does not change the scope of the dependent claims.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norin et al. (USPN 5,794,253).

To expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 is amended to delineate subject matter not disclosed or suggested in Norin et al. Amended independent claim 1 recites:

A database management device managing information comprising required matters including an effective period as one data unit and preparing following data corresponding to the data when the effective period of the data expires, comprising:

relevant information adding means for adding relevant information to both or either one of a specific data of which effective period expires and/or a following data corresponding to the specific data, the relevant information including an address for referring to the other data of the both; and

relevant information specifying means for specifying corresponding data referring to the address included in the relevant information of the data at the time of referring to the specific data or the following data.

In amended independent claim 1, “relevant information” is made more explicit, by now reciting “the relevant information including an address for referring to the other data of the both.” The configuration now recited in amended independent claim 1 does not need searching means (for reading data whenever it is necessary and then searching corresponding data from

plural data) because the data can be specified by using “address”. The purpose of the present invention is to find “specific data” and “following data” as fast as possible, which can be achieved by means of “address”.

In contrast, Norin et al. does not disclose a method of specifying data directly by means of “address”. Additionally, the design of Norin et al. wastes time due to the searching that is required. Consequently, Norin et al. cannot be applied to communications requiring high-speed processing.

Amended independent claim 1 further recites that “relevant information specifying means” specifies the “specific data” and “following data” by referring to “address”, which was recited in claim 2, now cancelled. Norin et al. does not disclose or suggest “relevant information specifying means” for specifying the data by referring to address. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Norin et al., as are dependent claims 6-9 and 11-16

Independent claims 17 and 19 are amended to include limitations that are similar to that added to independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claims 17 and 19 are patentable over Norin et al. also.

New claim 21, depending from amended independent claim 1, is added and includes similar limitations that are in amended claim 1. “Effective period management means” which stores “relevant information including an address” being associated with “effective period” is not disclosed or suggested in Norin et al. and neither is “data control means specifying the data based on the reference information and...”

New claim 22, depending from new claim 21, includes similar limitations that are in claim 9. Claim 22 recites that “the data control means prepares the following data at receiving the notice from the update management means before the effective period expires”, which is not

disclosed or suggested in Norin et al. Since Norin et al. is not provided with “the data control means”, after the expiration of the effective period, the corresponding data is deleted and subsequently new data is added. With such configuration, if the arrangement of Norin et al. were applied to the present invention, a period without data might be generated between the existing data and new data. In a case where data (such as dynamic image or music data) is continuously sent without interruption, such configured processing will cause the problem described in the written description of the present application

With respect to dependent claim 7, notwithstanding what the Examiner maintains, Norin et al. does not disclose or suggest that “data control means” performs “on the data specific processing due to the expiration of the effective period” (specific processing to prepare the corresponding following data) in accordance with “(at) receiving the notice from the period management means”.

With respect to dependent claim 11, “effective period extension” is not disclosed or suggested in Norin et al., contrary to what is indicated by the Examiner.

With respect to dependent claim 13, “changing the searching order” is not disclosed or suggested in Norin et al.

With respect to dependent claim 14, Norin et al. discloses a physical connection, but does not refer to security.

With respect to dependent claims 15 and 16, no description can be found in Norin et al. about the authentication algorithm, the encryption algorithm, the authentication key, the encryption key, and IPSEC. As described in the “Description of the Related Art” portion of the present specification, limiting the above-mentioned items becomes the bottleneck (processing) in

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communication. However, by applying the present invention to any field requiring high-speed communication, the bottleneck (processing) can be completely resolved.

Since Norin et al. does not disclose or suggest all the limitations in claims 1 and 16 to 19, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

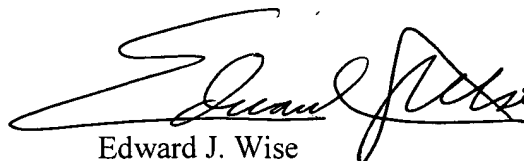
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Wise", is written over a horizontal line.

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